

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė

Phantasmagorias (2023)

Fantasmagorijos

Commissioned by the IX M.K. Čiurlionis International Piano and Organ Competition
Sukurta IX M.K. Čiurlionio tarptautinio pianistų ir vargonininkų konkurso užsakymu

Composer's note

There is hardly anything that provokes one's creative imagination more than reading the dictionary. As it often happens in my creative life, I found the idea for this piece when encountering a definition of the word. The term *phantasmagoria* has several meanings that indicate a quick and constantly shifting succession of fantastical things such as optical effects and illusions. Here is a definition most relevant to this piece:

Phantasmagoria is a series of real or imagined events that change quickly, one following the other as in a dream..."

This constant rapid shifting of elements became the main focus of the piece.

Performance notes

- In sections with fast passages, the barlines are merely referential divisions of time, representing the visual clarity of gestures rather than the actual count of metric beats. It is important to pay attention to the number of repetitions of particular gestures as well as their dynamics.
- In the fast passages, in order to emphasize the change of harmony, the first figure can be performed slightly slower and then gradually pick up to the indicated tempo.
- Multiple repetitions of the same gesture are performed organically, focusing mostly on the dynamic waves instead of mentally counting the exact number of repetitions. Avoid the feel of automaticity and mechanically sounding repetitions.
- Pedal markings are suggestions that can be interpreted with some freedom. Pedal changes between the gestures should be almost imperceptible.
- There is a constant harmonic ambiguity between C natural and C-flat so every time it occurs, make it sound unexpected. Introduce it with subtlety.

Approximate duration 9'50"